

Whittier -- Working to promote community public safety, and the safety of Whittier law enforcement officers, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (39-CA) today announced that the Whittier Police Department will receive \$9,559 from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. The partnership program provides up to 50% of funding for the purchase of bulletproof vests.

Congresswoman Sánchez is a sponsor of legislation that provides funding for the Federal Bulletproof Vest Program.

"I am delighted to announce that Whittier has received this funding from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. This grant will allow the Police Department to pay for approximately 40 vests," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Sánchez examined bulletproof vests during visits she made to local police departments in April.

"These vests are designed with the latest technological advances in protection capability, and are lighter and less restrictive for officers. This new technology will help the department to ensure the safety of the men and women who keep our neighborhoods and communities safe," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Nationwide the lives of more than 2,000 officers have been saved because of bulletproof vests. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in America nearly every other day. More than 65,000 are assaulted each year and about 23,000 are injured. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the risk of fatality from a firearm to officers not wearing body armor is 14 times greater than for officers wearing body armor.